September 30, 2103

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re:     Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, WC Docket No. 02-60

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On August 23, 2013, Evan Shulman and Nicole Perry of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Alexandre Laberge of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI), and Jennie Harvell of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS/ASPE) met with Linda Oliver, Christianna Barnhart, and Jay Schwarz of the Wireline Competition Bureau; and with Maya Uppaluru of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, all of the Federal Communications Commission.  The purpose of the meeting was to inform Commission staff of current HHS, CMS, and CMMI grant programs focusing on innovation in health information exchange and transitions of care, to help inform the Commission regarding the design of a Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Pilot Program.

The meeting participants discussed several different CMS and CMMI programs (including the "Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospitalizations among Nursing Facility Residents").  These programs provide grant funding for health care providers to use technology and broadband to reduce avoidable hospitalizations and emergency room visits, reduce costs, and achieve other health care goals.  Many of these grant projects include partnerships between hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, and primary care providers.  CMS and CMMI participants explained how they had structured their grant programs and managed application criteria and grantee selection.  They also described how they had designed the grant programs to include independent evaluation by a third-party research firm.  The independent evaluator conducts evaluations for each individual grant and for the grant program as a whole.


Respectfully submitted,


_____/s/_____
Linda Oliver
Deputy Chief, Telecommunications Access Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau